



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW
COMMITTEE
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET. ROOM 739**

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

3:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pedersen, Vice Chair Holoman, Commissioner Andrade, Commissioner Reyes, Commissioner Ollague, Commissioner Escandon, Commissioner Friedman, Commissioner Acebo, Commissioner Hatanaka, Commissioner Napolitano, Commissioner Hoffenblum and Commissioner Mejia

Absent: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Choi, Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Flores, Commissioner Hollister, Commissioner Hernandez, Commissioner Sun and Commissioner Tse

1. Call to order and introduction by Chair Pedersen. (11-1663)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pedersen at 3:07 p.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2011. (11-2114)

On motion of Commissioner Hoffenblum, seconded by Commissioner Reyes, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - MINUTES](#)

III. REPORTS

3. Report on Redistricting Community meetings that have taken place and additional meetings that have been scheduled. (11-2115)

Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Martin Zimmerman gave a brief summary of the 10 scheduled community meetings, five of which had already occurred. Since the last Boundary Review Committee meeting, there were two meetings added for the Fifth District. Staff members are working with the Executive Office to develop summaries of these meetings to post on the Redistricting website as they are available. The April 19, 2011 community meeting summary has been posted.

Chair Pedersen and Commissioner Reyes indicated that they attended the April 26th meeting held in Whittier (Commissioners Martinez, Ollague and Andrade also attended). Commissioner Reyes noted the Whittier meeting had longtime residents of the community testifying. Residents testified about their school districts, their neighborhood and local parks, indicating they believe the area should be kept intact and not separated into multiple districts. Others indicated a preference that their boundaries remain the same. Attendees also commented on the benefits that the Supervisors had brought to their neighborhoods. Chair Pedersen stated that he was pleased with the meetings, the good comments received, and there were approximately 76 people that attended.

Mr. Zimmerman reported on the Florence/Firestone Community Service Center meeting on April 28th where the majority of the constituents wanted the District boundaries to stay the same. There was some testimony that was not relevant to the meeting but related more to constituent services. Those speakers were referred to Board office staff that were in attendance.

Commissioner Friedman shared the testimony provided at the Van Nuys meeting on May 2nd where 10 or 12 members spoke. Most community members who spoke indicated they wanted to remain in their District, and to keep the San Fernando Valley connected with the Santa Monica Mountains. They also viewed the Santa Monica Mountains as part of their community of interest and noted keeping it in the District would aid responsiveness in the event of fires and other emergencies.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Report on the Benchmark Redistricting Plan to be used to compare to submitted redistricting plans. (11-2119)

Mr. Zimmerman discussed the Benchmark Plan which analyzes the Districts based on the current District boundaries, but using the 2010 Census figures. CEO Manager Frank Cheng noted the supporting documentation included all the reports that the Committee has approved for the Benchmark report with their specific titles and details. He mentioned there was an error on the back of page 15 on the chart of Total Population by Race Ethnicity for column of "All Asian Category" under District 5, it shows 29,419. It should show 408,045 bringing the Total Asian population close to 1.5 million.

Member of the public Alan Clayton indicated that he was very pleased with the information provided in the Benchmark Plan. He asked about the status of the poverty data from the American Community Survey. He commented that information on registered voters by race and ethnicity, and voting age citizen population, can be relevant to determine the presence of packing and cracking issues. Additionally he questioned if there was a time limit to submit to the Committee additional reference layers that can be helpful such as other elections that have not been included. Mr. Clayton noted that the Attorney General Race in 2008 may be helpful.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that the additional reference layers approved by the Committee at the last meeting are available on the system. He stated that additional reference layers would still have to be approved by the Committee and provided to the software vendor to incorporate the information to the system. He also observed that, given the approaching deadline for submitting plans and the fact that only two Committee meetings will occur prior to that deadline, including additional layers beyond the meeting of May 18, 2011 would not be practical.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - Benchmark Redistricting Plan](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

5. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Committee, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-2120)

Chair Pedersen asked Mr. Zimmerman to provide an update on the website activity, redistricting software and additional reference layers. Mr. Zimmerman provided a brief update on the redistricting software that went live April 22, 2011, and the four online training sessions given. Mr. Cheng stated there were some challenges with persons dialing into the first webinar session which were quickly addressed. He also stated the last webinar session was recorded, and will be made available to the public on the website.

Mr. Zimmerman also referenced the suggestion of Commissioner Holloman from the meeting of April 20, 2011 for County staff to offer "open house" sessions to provide assistance to members of the public with the redistricting software. An announcement was posted on the website regarding open house sessions scheduled for May 4, May 18, and June 1, 2011 between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the offices of the Executive Officer of the Board.

Mr. Zimmerman stated there have been three plans shared on the website and one plan submitted. There is no analysis performed on plans that are shared but not submitted. Plans that are submitted are immediately posted on the website for viewing. He also noted that staff analysis and reporting will be done at a later time and will be provided to the public when scheduled for a BRC meeting. An informational hard copy of the one submitted redistricting plan map was shared with the Committee and members of the public in attendance.

Mr. Cheng and Susan Herman of the Chief Executive Office reported statistics of the two components of the redistricting website: static content of the website (resources, meeting schedule and minutes, etc.) and the redistricting software itself.

Ms. Herman stated, since March 17, 2011, there have been 7,783 unique visitors that have looked at 7-8 pages of the static content site. Of those people, there were 33% that went directly to redistricting.lacounty.gov; 59% came from referring sites (media, neighborhood councils, County portal itself, etc.), 8% came through a search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc.). The busiest day was March 18, 2011, the day after the site was launched. The pages most visited are:

1. Meeting Schedules (Agendas)/Districts and Data Downloads - Tied
2. Community Meetings
3. Boundary Review Committee
4. Important Dates
5. Public Access Plan

The site is most frequently used Monday through Friday, with less activity on the weekends.

Mr. Cheng affirmed that, as of May 3, 2011 since the redistricting software went live on April 22, 2011, the software had 85,482 hits, 659 visitors, and 177 unique users. Additionally, he confirmed that reference layers regarding education, language and poverty are now available on the website. He indicated that he would work with Mr. Clayton to assist him during the open house session in locating those reference layers and answer any questions he might have.

Commissioner Holoman inquired whether the County redistricting website was linked to the State's redistricting website. Ms. Herman responded that the State's redistricting website was a referral site for the County, even though there was not a direct link. Commissioner Holoman further commented that she agreed with Mr. Clayton that the attorney general race involving Kamala Harris would be useful to include, as well as the insurance commissioner race.

Staff noted that they will continue to monitor the sites and report back to the Committee as needed.

Mr. Zimmerman added that, at a previous meeting, Commissioner Acebo requested to have all Los Angeles City elections added as reference layers and had been asked to narrow his request to specific elections. He added that Commissioner Acebo recently refined his request to include primary and general elections, as well as Charter amendments for the last six City elections.

Commissioner Acebo confirmed his request regarding LA City elections. It was his recommendation that races in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011 Citywide and Charter amendments and City Council races be included. If there was a way to manage the information, he requested including all citywide elections at a minimum.

Mr. Zimmerman asked consultant, David Ely, to comment on the feasibility of adding the requested elections data to the website. Mr. Ely indicated that information of that magnitude may not be able to be easily accommodated on the website.

Commissioner Hoffenblum commented most of these elections have very low turnout and the voters who show up at the polls are usually sophisticated and intelligent voters, and he did not feel there would be a lot of useful information garnered for such low turnouts.

Commissioner Reyes agreed with both Commissioner Acebo and Hoffenblum, and added that there should be a way to include some level of citywide election information as well as statewide elections to the process. He indicated that both are instructive in a Section 2 analysis and voter preferences in general.

Mr. Ely, consultant addressed how the software works with reference layers. The reference layers do not allow the user to select individual areas from a larger region. Each selection must be predefined.

Commissioner Friedman suggested the races be limited to those that are contested.

Commissioner Acebo suggested the citywide and Charter amendments be included as an overlay for the City of Los Angeles elections.

Principal Deputy County Counsel Nancy Takade clarified for the Committee that any action to add additional elections to the software program was not agendaized for this meeting, so a motion could not be made at this time. However, the matter could be added to the May 18th BRC Committee meeting agenda, and any formal action can be taken at that time. This will provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the various elections, if they wish, prior to the Committee taking any action. However, so that no time is lost, County staff can still undertake any preparatory work in the interim to get the election data ready.

Mr. Zimmerman requested Commissioner Acebo work closely with consultant David Ely to refine his request on overlays for approval at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Cheng added he will work closely with the vendor to make sure it would be available if approved by the Committee on May 18th.

It was recommended by Mr. Ely that the CVAP data be defined in themes in the redistricting software.

Member of the public, Alan Clayton, suggested adding the statewide 2010 General Election for Attorney General as a reference layer. Commissioners Reyes and Holloman concurred, and Commissioner Holloman also suggested adding the statewide 2010 Primary Election for Insurance Commissioner as well. Staff indicated they would work with the software vendor on including these as well, pending proposed approval by the Committee at the May 18th meeting.

Public Comment

- 6.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee. (11-1662)

Alan Clayton addressed the Committee on the importance of the various elections he raised at today's meeting. He also commented on the impact that voter deferral may have.

Commissioner Reyes suggested there be a separate agenda item other than Public Comment for public input such as the public testimony on communities of interest like that of the community meetings.

Adjournment

- 7.** Adjournment for the meeting of May 4, 2011. (11-1660)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. The next meeting to be held May 18, 2011 will most likely be held in the Board room.